

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-05

DHA-02 ORM-02 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /097 W

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R 200930Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4964

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, AO, WA, PINS

SUBJ: MPLA REPORTED INCLINED TO AVOID BATTLE WITH
SOUTH AFRICA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LEAD ITEM ON SABC NEWS BROADCAST MORNING FEB 20 CITED
UNIDENTIFIED CORRESPONDENTS IN LUANDA WHO HAD INTERVIEWED
MPLA LEADER NETO AS SAYING NETO HAD REFLECTED HOPE THAT
CONFLICT WITH SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT BE AVOIDED. HE REPORTEDLY
SAID SOUTH WEST AFRICA COULD BE ASSURED OF HAVING ACCESS
TO THE ELECTRIC POWER AND WATER FROM THE CUNENE SCHEME BUT
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THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES MUST BE ENTIRELY WITHDRAWN FROM
ANGOLAN TERRITORY. NETO IS SAID TO HAVE ADDED THAT

ANGOLAN FORCES WOULD NOT GO BEYOND THE ANGOLAN BORDER,
BUT THAT ANGOLA WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GROUPS WORKING
FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

2. FOREGOING IS MUCH MORE SPECIFIC THEN EARLIER LOCAL
PRESS REPORTS THAT, IN BROADCAST FROM LUANDA, MPLA HAD
DEMANDED TOTAL SAG WITHDRAWAL AND HAD INDICATZC WILLING-
NESS TO COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST
REFUGEES IN ANGOLA.

3. FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS LOCAL PRESS HAS ALSO GIVEN
PROMINENT SPACE TO STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SENATE AIDE
MORAN ALLEGING THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN SOMEWHAT SIMILAR
IMPRESSION DURING COURSE OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MPLA
OFFICIAL NASCIMENTO DURING RECENT VISIT IN ANGOLA. CAPE
TIMES FEB 19 REPORTED THAT MORAN TOLD SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATS
IN WASHINGTON THAT "MUTUALLY PROFITABLE ARRANGEMENTS"
COULD BE WORKED OUT TO COVER THE CUNENE SCHEMEN, AND THAT
WHILE MPLA "UNALTERABLY OPPOSED" TO APARTHEID AND CONVINCED
SAG OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA IS ILLEGAL, MPLA WOULWSNOT "EXPORT
SUBVERSION" TO ZAIRE, ZAMBIA OR SOUTH WEST AFRICA.
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4. COMMENT: JOCKEYING IN PUBLIC POSITION IS ENCOURAGING
BUT MPLA ATTITUDE TOWARD SWAPO MAY REMUAN KEY ELEMENT IN
DEVELOPING VIABLE ACCOMMODATION. PRIVATE ASSURANCES COULD
TEND TO COUNTER GENERALIZED PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF BROAD
SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLES, BUT SWAPO SPOKESMAN'S CALL IN
LONDON FOR CUBAN SUPPORT AND SOVIET ARMS TO LIBERATE
NAMIBIA PLAYS DIRECTLY ON SAG FEARS.
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